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No 201 Walnut

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Cholera Infantum

Inaugural Dissertation.

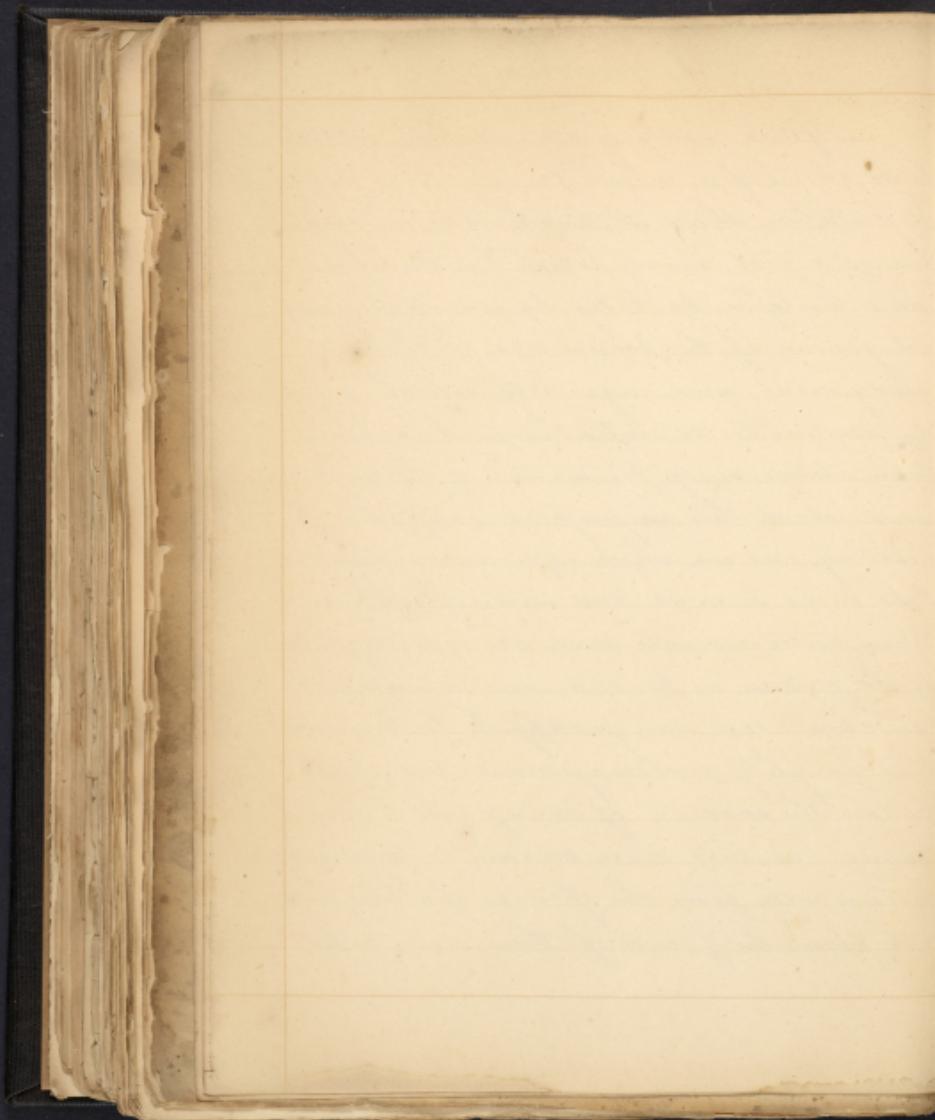
Americus Vespuccius Payne

admitted March 3d. 1820

and Private, moral
and Social Order

Introduction.

After a variety of considerations relative to the choice of a subject for my Inaugural Dissertation, I have at length selected one out of a vast many which has been hancetta heretofore, probably, by some of the greatest geniuses of the present age with that judgment, and ingenuity, which so justly pertain to its importance. And whilst I am strenuously persuaded of the influence which this impression is capable of exerting, over one whose experience is limited like mine, I am at once entirely debarred from entering into such an investigation of the disease as practice, and repeated observation, alone, can justify. So, to surmount this mighty embarrassment will be, to follow the example of many who have preceded me, that have drawn conclusions principally from the opinion of others and not from the fruits of their own expe-

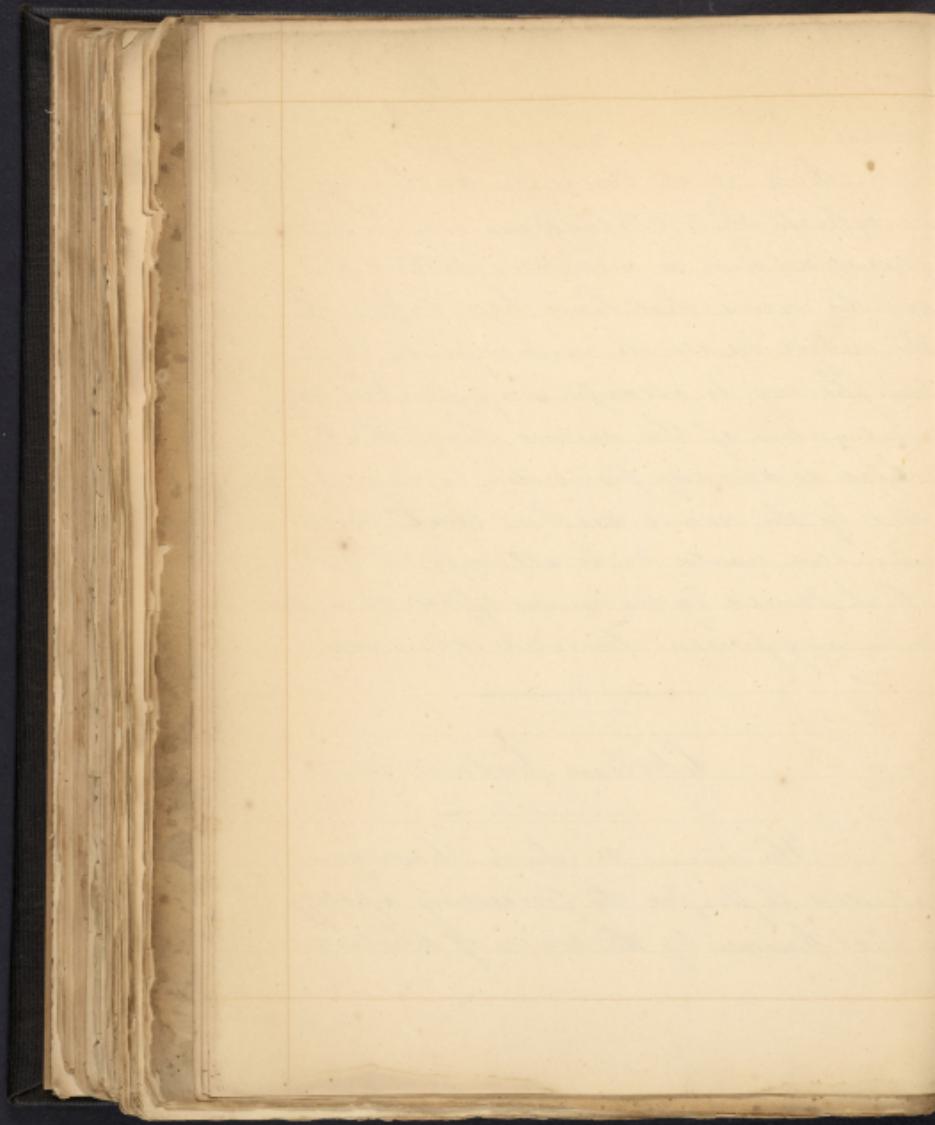


uence.

And such too is the authority on which these conclusions are to be founded; and so wide and extensive are the views that have been taken of the subject in all its various parts, that, I might say, to attempt any further investigation of the disease, than that which is already presented to my notice by the several authors that have consulted, would be, to attempt a task which, I could by no means effect, at least, from my present limited experience.

Cholera Infantum.

The disease to which I have concluded to prefix the preceding apology is that known by the name of Cholera

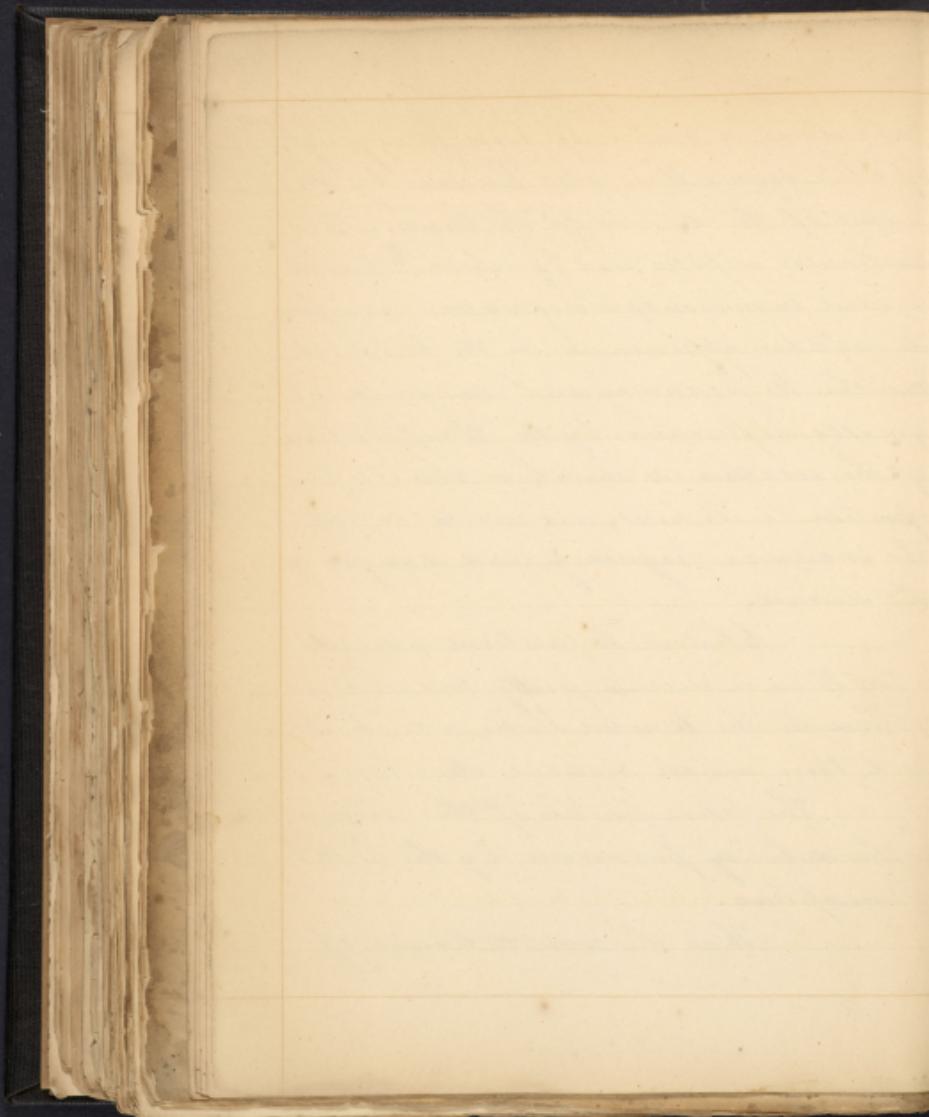


Infantum, or "vomiting and purging of Children". It is also known by the name of the disease of "the season". These particular affections by which the disease is most commonly designated arise from its regular appearance in the summer months. Its frequency, and danger, are greatly influenced by the temperature of the weather, so much so, that in proportion to its heat, are we to expect the increased frequency, and danger of the disease.

Cholera Infantum would seem to be a disease pretty much confined to the United States, or it has not been much noticed elsewhere.

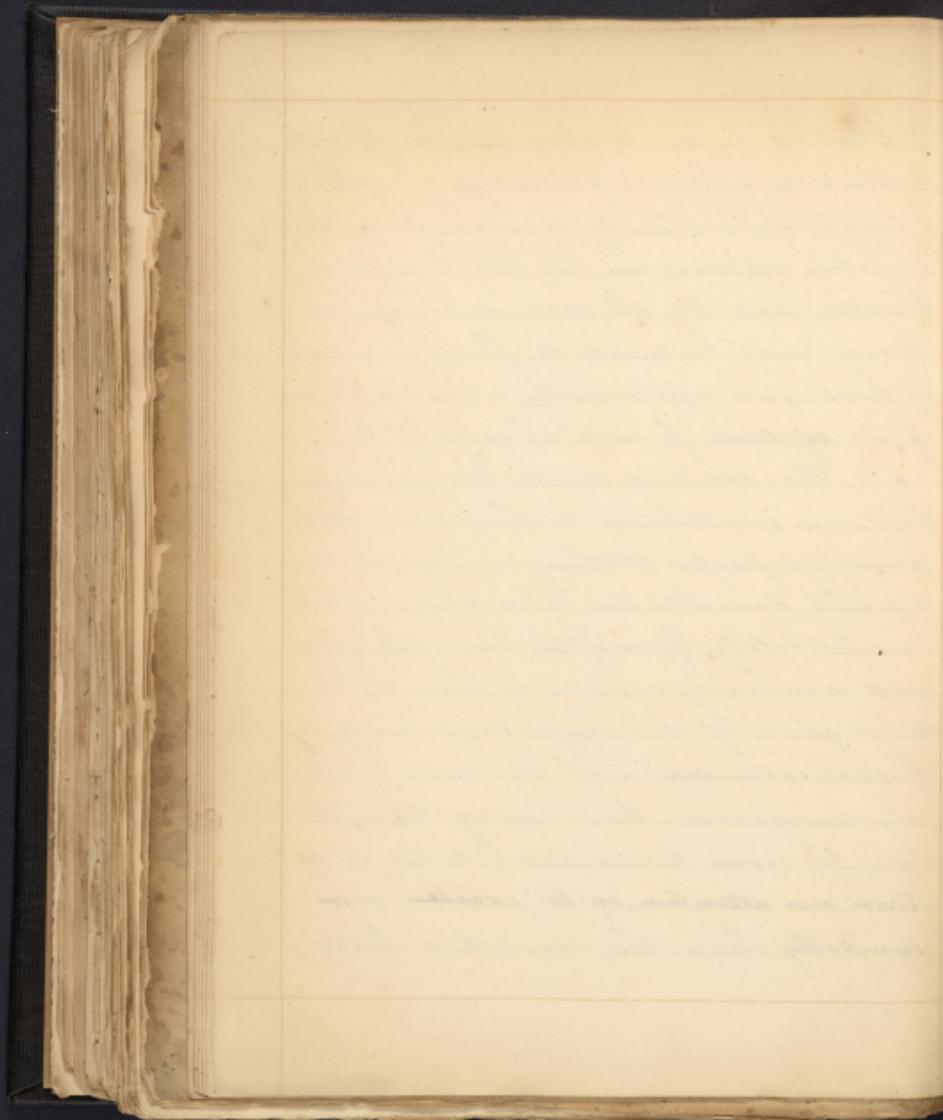
The predisposition of this disease is the debility produced by the ~~the~~ atmosphere.

That the remote cause of



of Cholera seems to originate or gradually develop on a heated condition of the atmosphere is clearly evinced from its regular appearance in the summer months, and by the disease being rendered more intractable from an excess of heat, and apparently, a mitigation of its violence from a change of air.

The exciting causes are improper food, an inattention to the strict observance of proper clothing suited to the delicate constitution of a Child whose susceptibility is so often wrought upon, and eventually consumed through a negligence of this important duty, by diseases attended with the most distressing consequences. And among these, there can be none better calculated to attract our attention, or to excite our sympathy than the one whose history



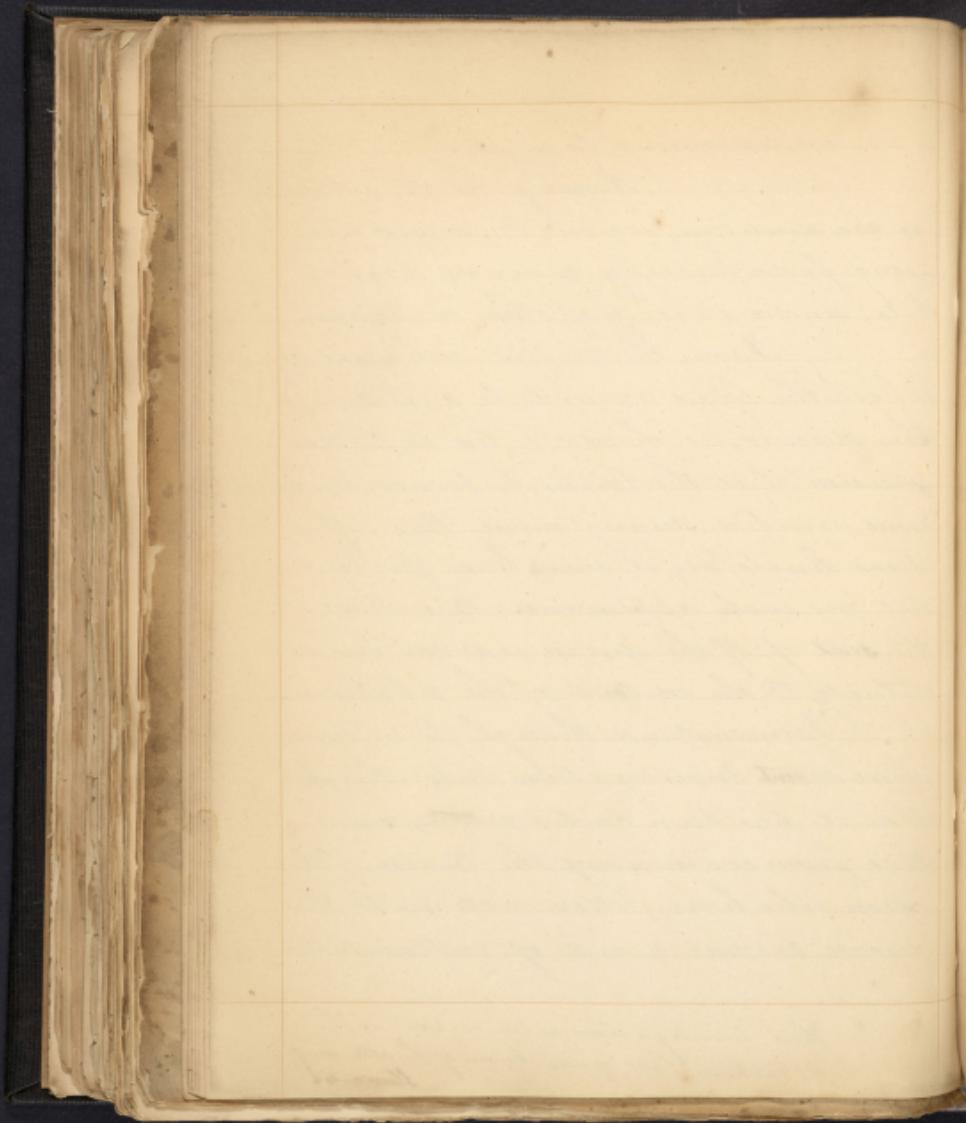
I am endeavouring to relate.

Among the other causes are dentition, worms, Measles arising from marshy grounds, Acrid bite, and a variety of other irritations.

From the violent manner in which the head seems to be affected in this disease, we should be led to the conclusion that the Brain laboured under some morbid arrangement. But, a posterior, heretofore, it seems have pointed out no such appearance. But, that the seat of the disease was confined entirely to the contents of the abdomen.

I understand though, from some more recent investigations into this fact that it has been contradicted, and that from examining the Brain of children who have fallen victims to this disease evident marks of inflammation

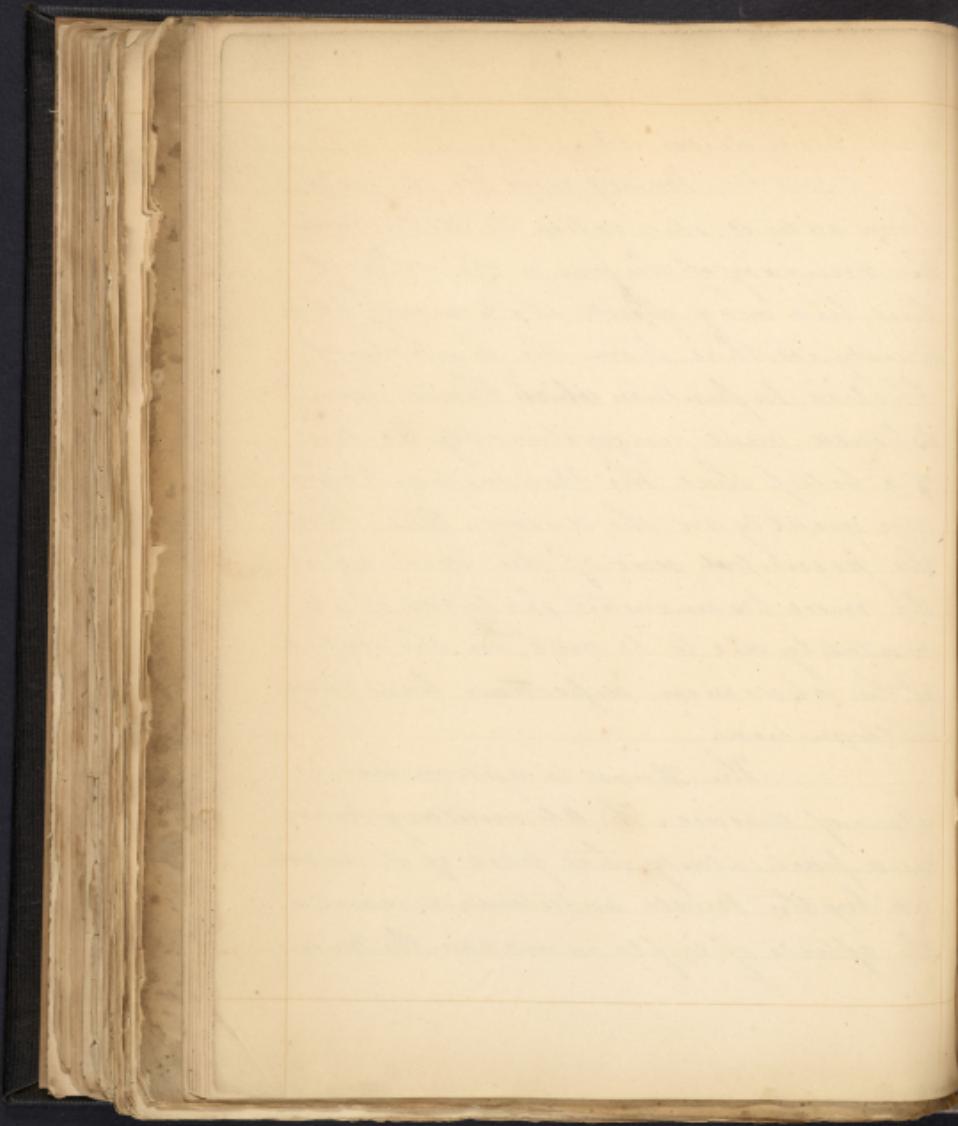
* These investigations were made at the Almshouse last year by one of the attending Physicians



have been discovered.

Being unable myself, from actual observation to determine the accuracy of the one, or the other of these two very opposite statements, I have merely add, that, from the few cases of Cholera Infantum which I have seen I should not unquestionably be led to a belief that the Brain participated greatly in the disease. But, that the principal seat of the disease, and the more prominent features of its mortality are to be met, ^{with} in the contents of the abdomen, dispositions have fully determined.

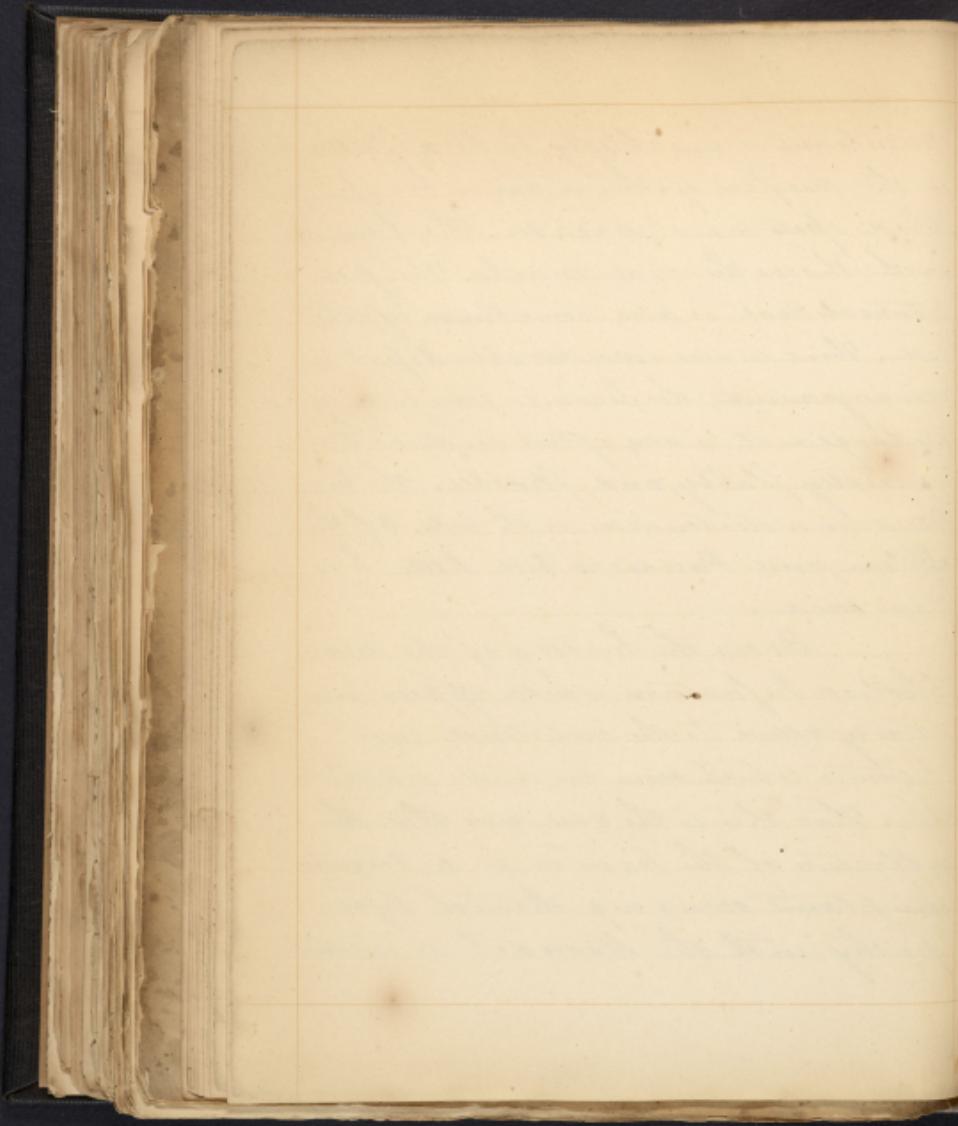
The Thorax is represented as clear of disease. The alimentary canal and particularly that part of it made up by the small intestines, discovers the effects of inflammation, the mucous



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membrane seems chiefly to be affected, on the surface of this a number of livid spots are observable. The Stomach shows the same marks. The peritoneal Coat is, also, sometimes affected. There is also, considerable Hepatic derangement, the Liver is uniformly enlarged, it is also, often indurated, generally flabby, and flexible. The Gall Bladder is distended with bile. Of the Spleen, and Pancreas but little has been said.

From the history of the disease, Cholera Infantum rotula appears very nearly allied to the intestinal complaints which occur in more advanced age. That this is the case, and that the affection of the Liver is a subsequent complaint occurring through sympathy with the Stomach, is evident



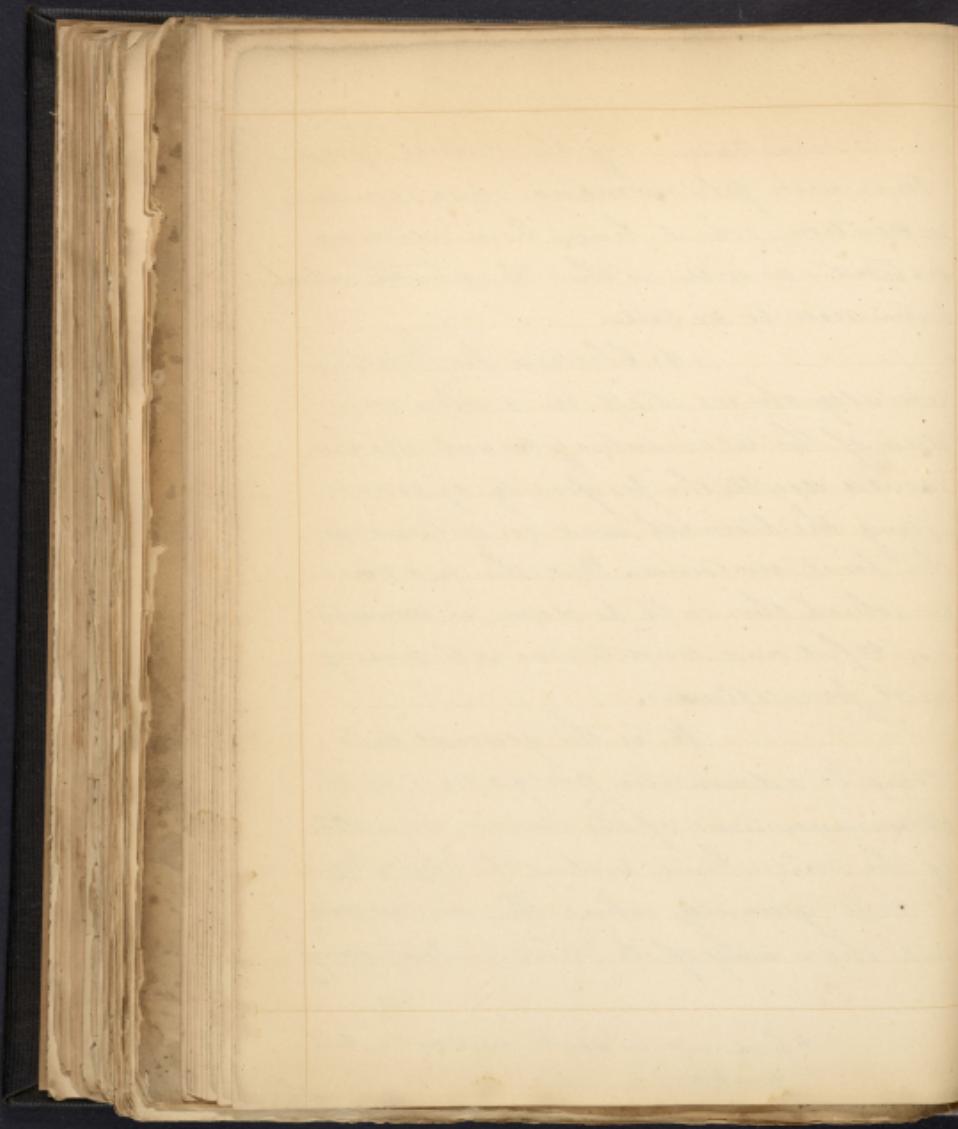
by demonstrating by the causes, symptoms, and phenomena observed on dissection, which have been already noticed, as well as the treatment which I am now to detail.

As Cholera in farinum usually shows itself in a disordered state of the alimentary canal, no one would doubt the propriety of evacuating the Stomach, and in this case in the first instance. But the manner in which this is to be done is somewhat doubtful and indeterminate among most practitioners.

It is the general cus-
tome to administer purgatives at the
commencement of the disease and those
of the mild kind, such as the Opium Balsam.

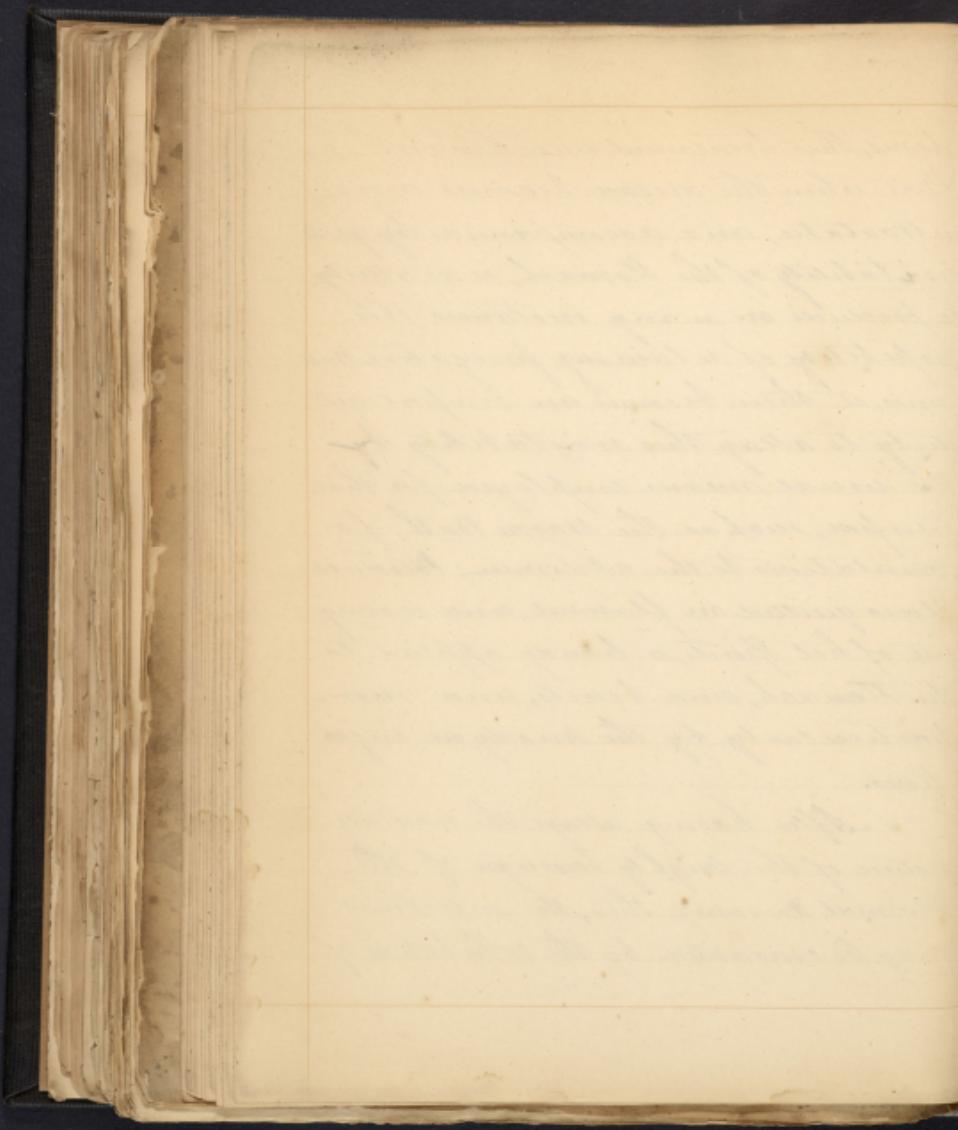
Most generally, where the disease does
not show any of its more violent symp-

* Balsom no doubt answers a better
purpose.



time, this treatment will answer.
But when the disease becomes more
intractable, and accompanied by great
irritability of the Stomach, so as utterly
to preclude in many instances the
possibility of retaining purgative Me-
dicines, it then becomes an important
duty to allay this irritability by
the usual means employed for that
purpose, such as the Warm Bath, fr-
-omitations to the abdomen; Scented
Cloves quitted in flannel, and wrung
out of hot Spirits, or brandy applied to
the Stomach, and bowels, and more
particularly by the anodyne injec-
-tions.

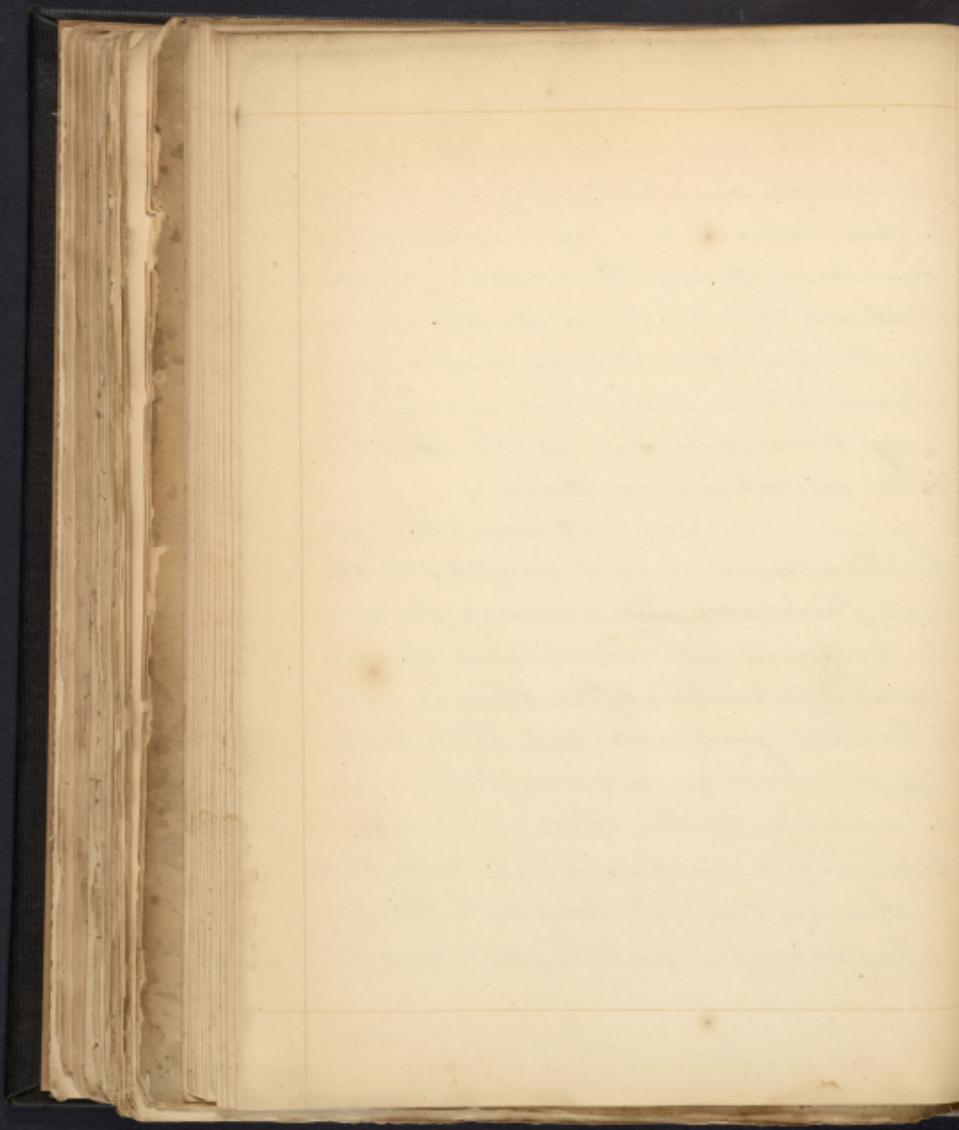
After having allayed the irritable
nature of this mighty Sovereign of the
Animal Economy, then, the intestines
may be evacuated by the exhibition of



purgatives, and among such, are most appropriate and best adapted to this purpose, seems to be a combination of balsome and opium, the advantages of which are that by its insipidity and smallness of dose, it may be easily administered; moreover, it evacuates very thoroughly, and at the same time allates irritation and spasm.

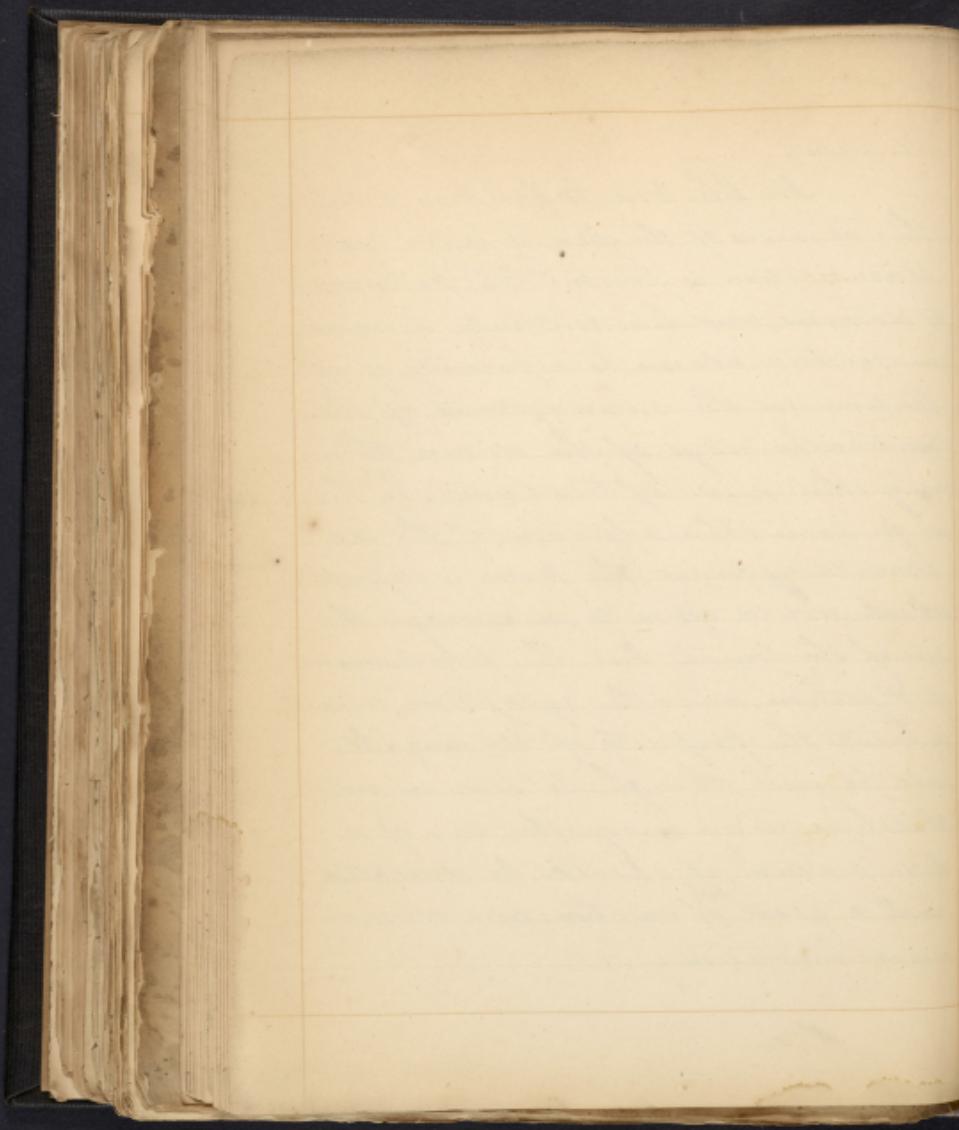
How well never, though, this treatment may be adapted to the more favourable and ordinary forms of the disease, it will not admit of universal application. Often there is such rheumatic gastric distension, that purgative medicines are indeed ineffectual, and in addition to this there is considerable heat,^{and a firm} and a quick and irritata pulse. In these instances packing with Specchio-ancha, no doubt, merits a great deal of

* The fever is of the remitting kind.



attention.

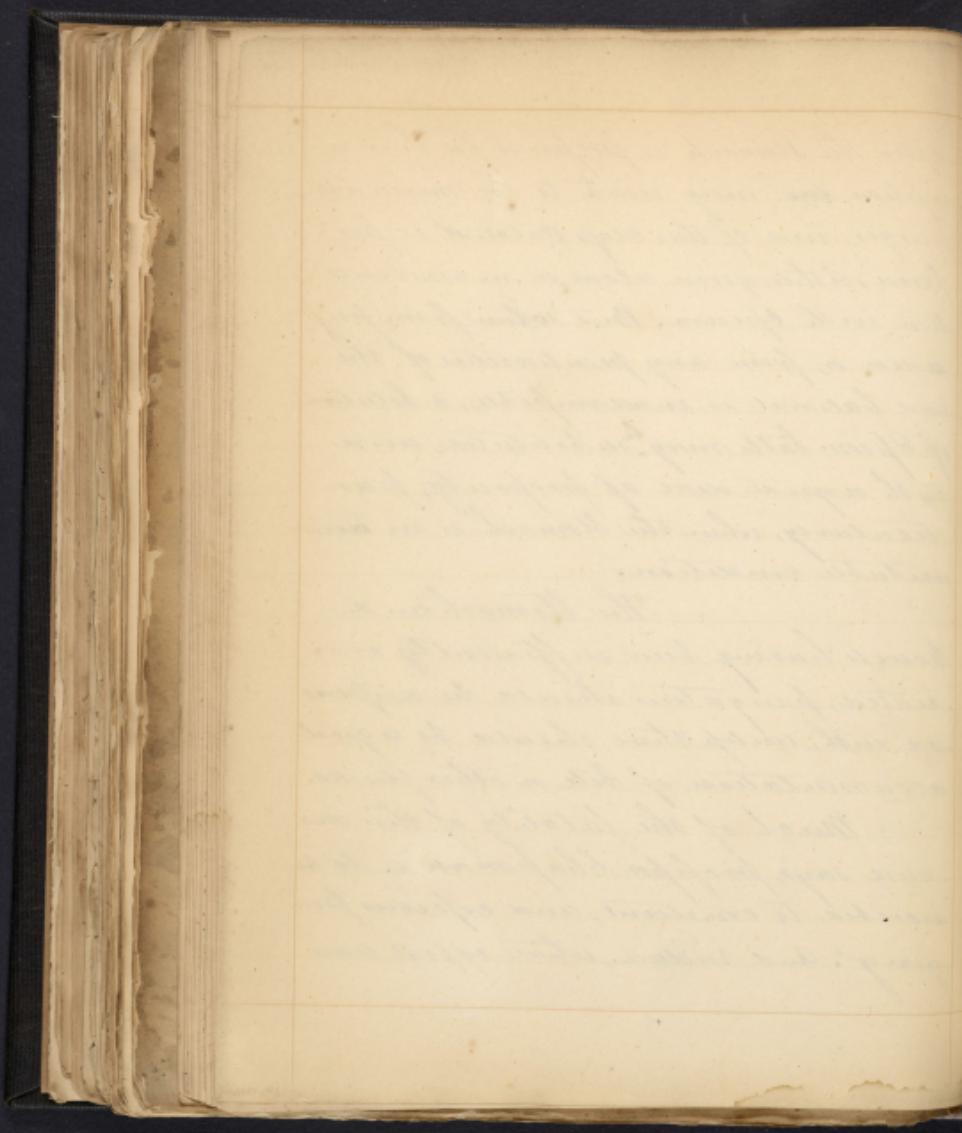
In Cholera Infarction like other diseases of the bowels when inflammation is present &c. promises to do more, and has certainly a more undoubted claim to a priority of attention in the management of this particular stage of the disease than any other mode of treatment. In this, as in some other affections of the alimentary canal, the pulse is suppressed, which would seem to discourage the use of the lancet, but, the phenomena of diætesis, and other symptoms, evidently indicate the propriety of bleeding. It will be well, though, to bear in mind that here, as in every other case of a like nature, it should be directed with a great ^{and} of caution, and accurate discrimination.



After the Stomach is prepared for their re-ception we may resort to the mercurial purges, and of this class Calomel is preferred, either given alone, or in combination with Opium. But when from prejudice or, from any peculiarities of the case calomel is inadmissible, a solution of Epsom salts may ^{be} substituted, and with a great deal of propriety, particularly, when the Stomach is in an irritable condition.

The Stomach and bowels having been sufficiently evacuated, purgations should be dispensed with, unless there should be a great accumulation of bile or other fluids.

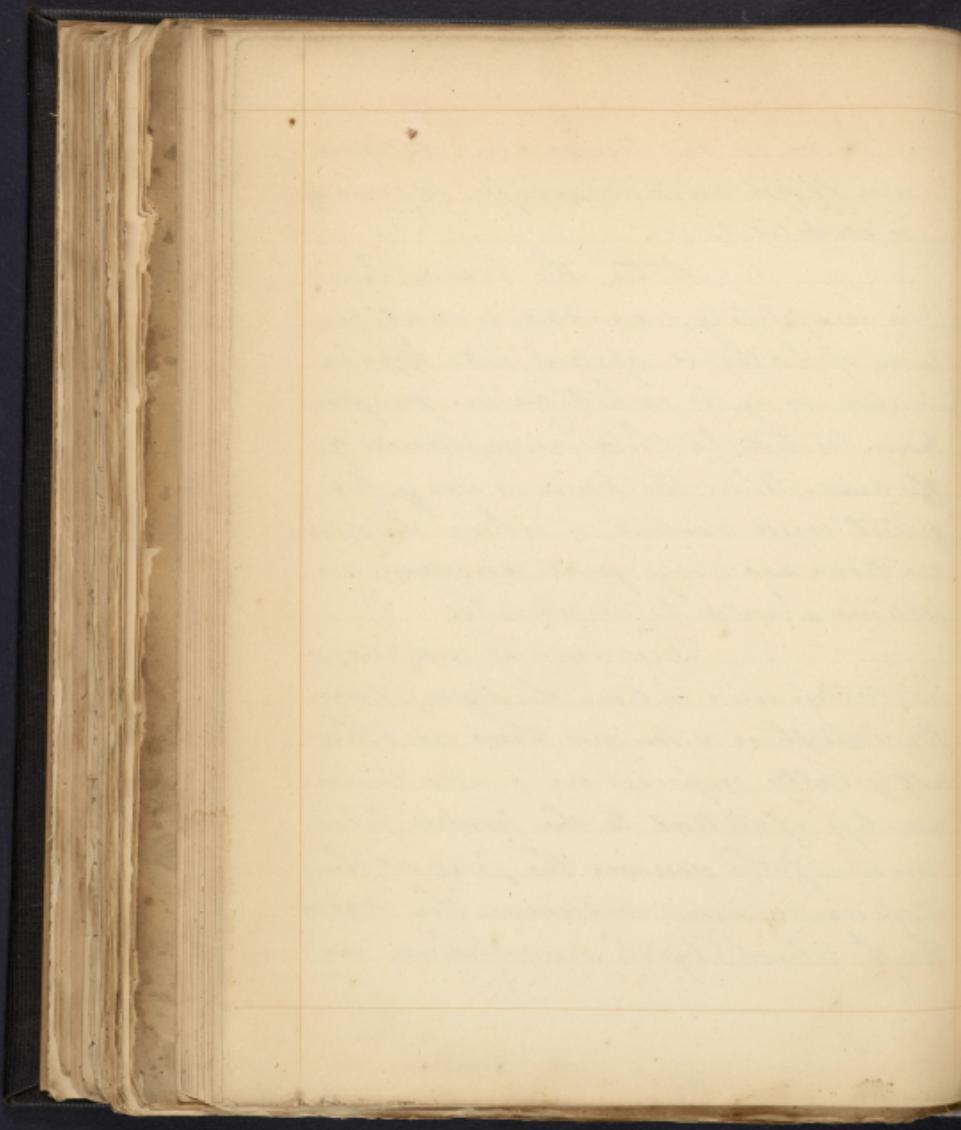
Much of the fatality of this disease says, professor Chapman "is to be ascribed to constant, and copious purging". And indeed, what effect can



thus have on the tender and delicate frame of an infant except, to exchange and debilitate it.

After the bowels have been completely evacuated, a combination of calomel, opium, and spices uambla may be exhibited in proportions suited to the circumstances of the case. When the pain is very frequent and violent, or where the evacuations are very great, anodyne injections should be resorted to.

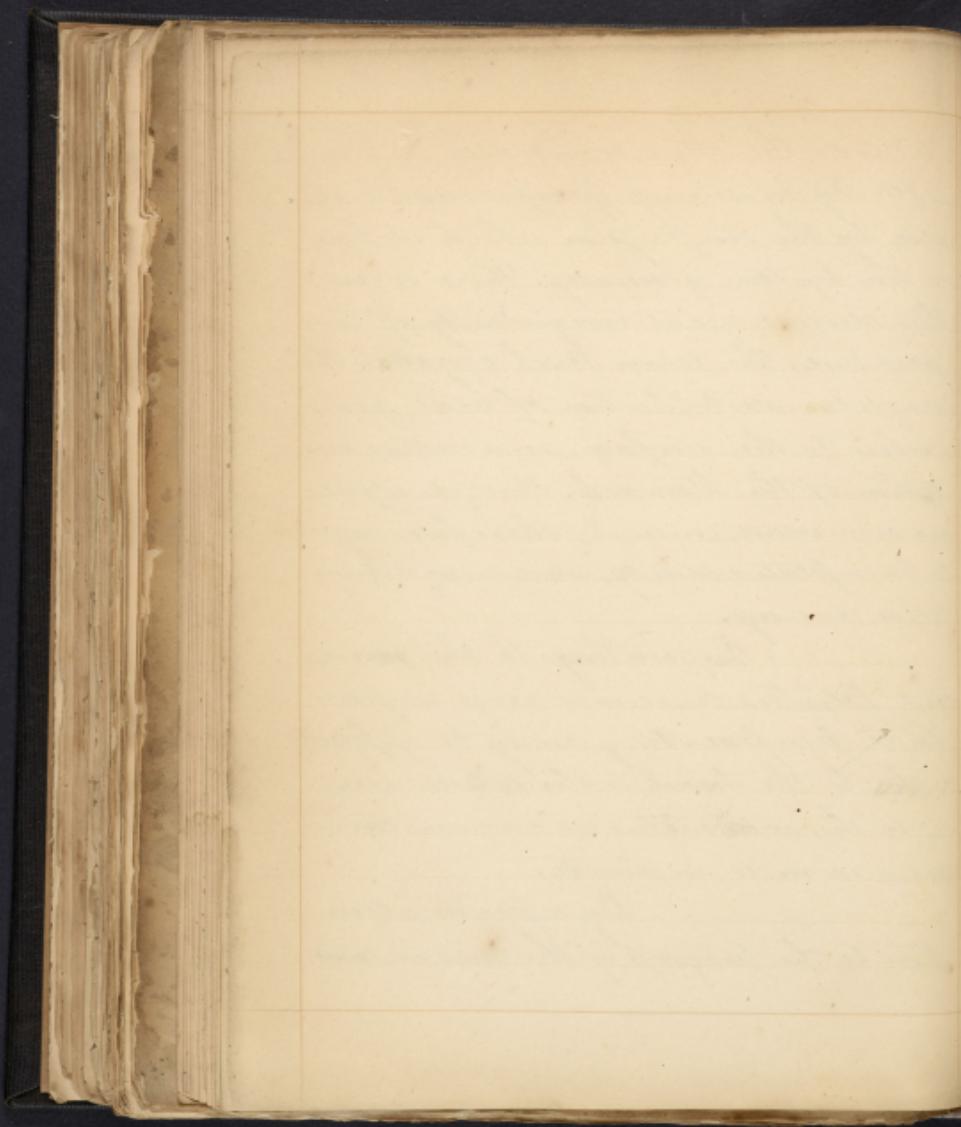
These means will calm irritation and relieve the symptoms. Besides these remedies there are others not greatly inferior in importance, nor less essential to the proper treatment of the disease. The first of this class under consideration is, the Warm Bath, which, by its immediate ac-



tion on the skin, is not only serviceable by inducing perspiration, but also, by the impression which it has on the system generally. There is in this disease great irregularity of temperature. The Warm Bath equalises this irregular distribution of heat, gives a glow to the surface, and calms irritation of the stomach. But, its effects are evanescent, and it, therefore, requires to be repeated daily, and sometimes twice a day.

Cooperating to the same end Blisters answer a very important purpose. They may be applied ~~take~~ to the breast, to the abdomen, or to the extremities as circumstances may seem to indicate.

By a proper attention to the progress of the disease, and

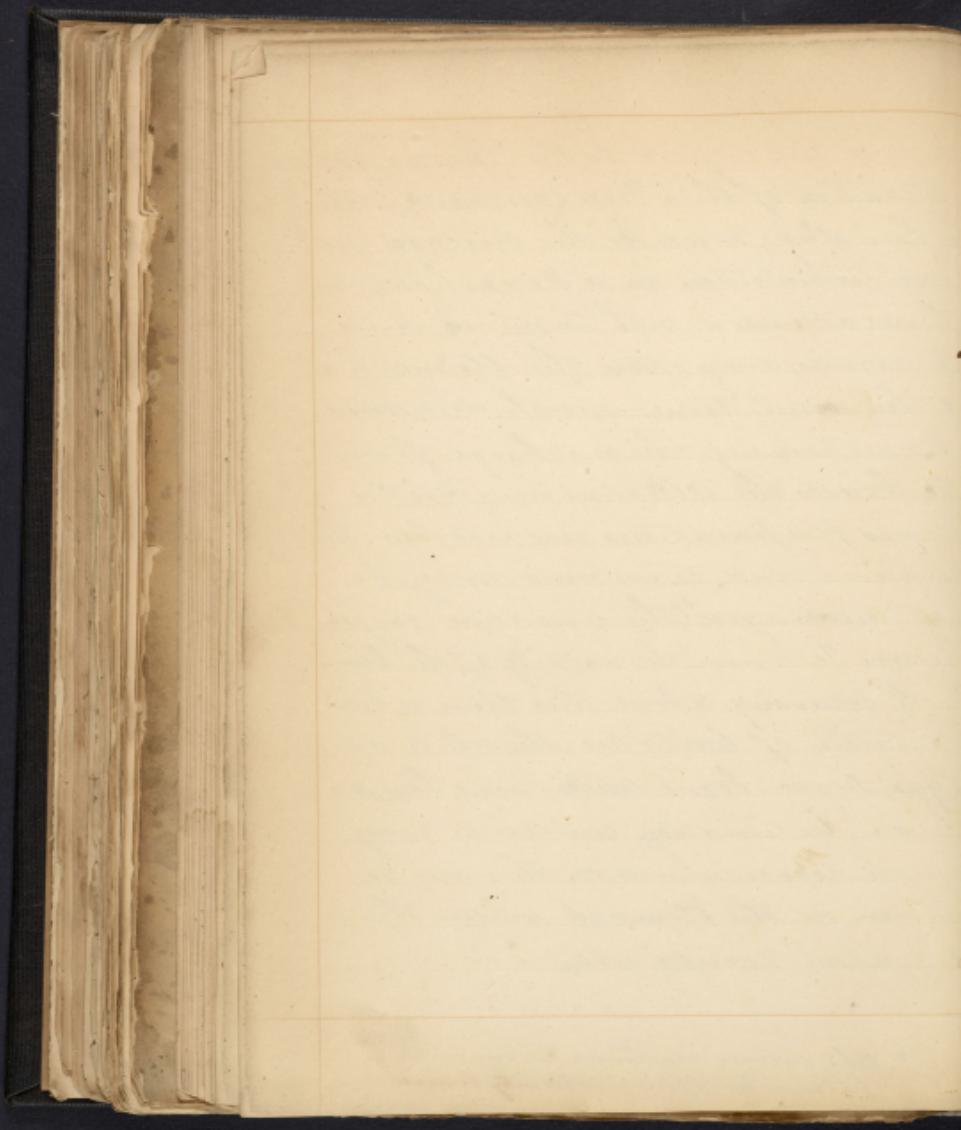


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and a due regard to the proper application of this treatment, after a few days, or weeks the disease usually terminates in a diarrhoea, sometimes attended with tormenta and tenesmus; very often the Stomach is at the same time much disordered.

To restraining the discharge from the bowels the Althagine, and Ortega decoctus preparations are useful. The tormenta, and tenesmus may be best managed by the anodyne riper times. To remove the acidity of the Stomach occurring about this time a combination of basterbie, the white of Eggs, sugars, lime water and Laudanum, intimately united is very much recommended. This will remain on the Stomach when the oil alone would not.

* The disease sometimes terminates fatally in four and twenty hours.

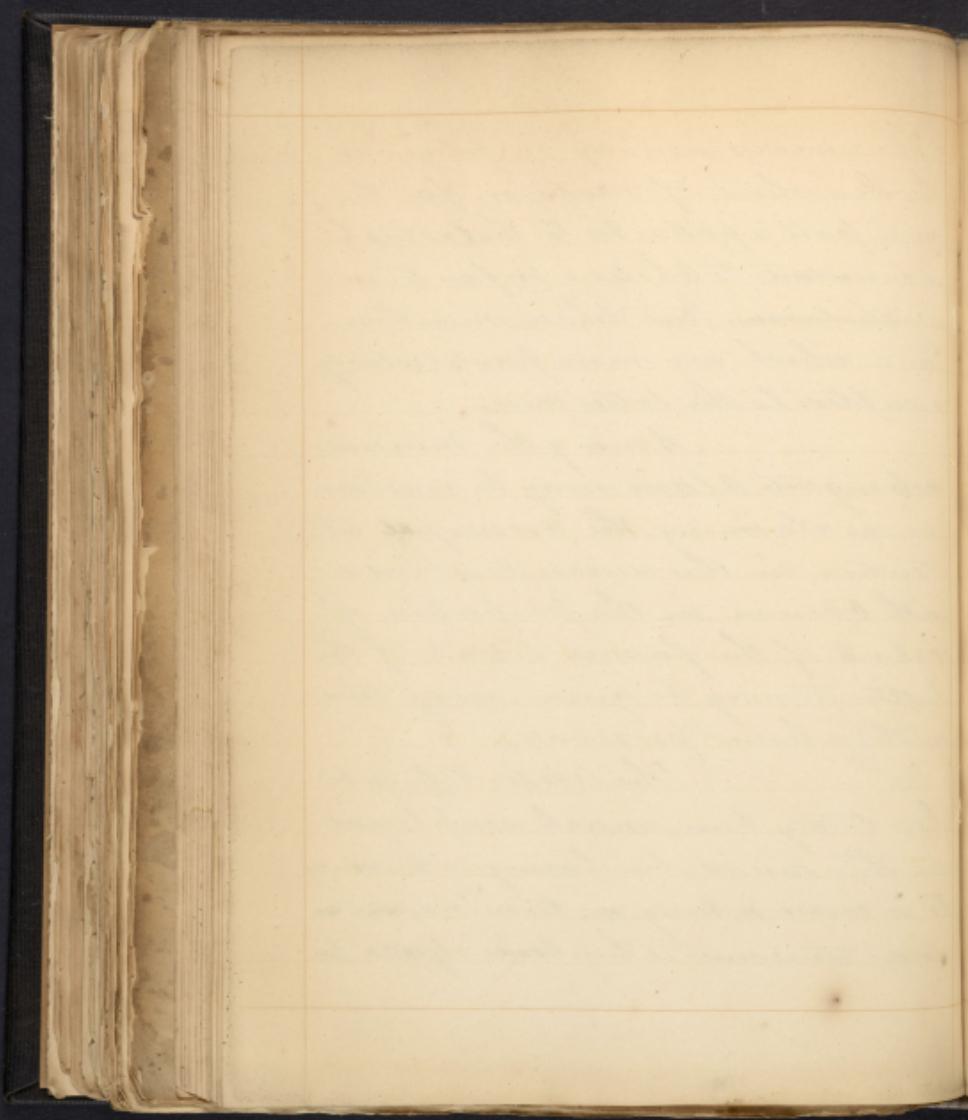


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The remedies usually employed in the Diarrhoea of adults are, for the most part applicable to that which is incident to Cholera infantum in children. But I shall mention some which are more particularly adapted to the latter case.

Among the Mineral astringents Alum may be considered as claiming the principal attention in this disease, combined with Opium in the proportion of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the former to $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$ of the latter, it may be given every two, or three hours "pro re nata".

The Acetis Plumbi has lately been much employed in this disease, but having a tendency to increase or bring on torpor, ^{and} ~~and~~ and tussimus it has been objected to.



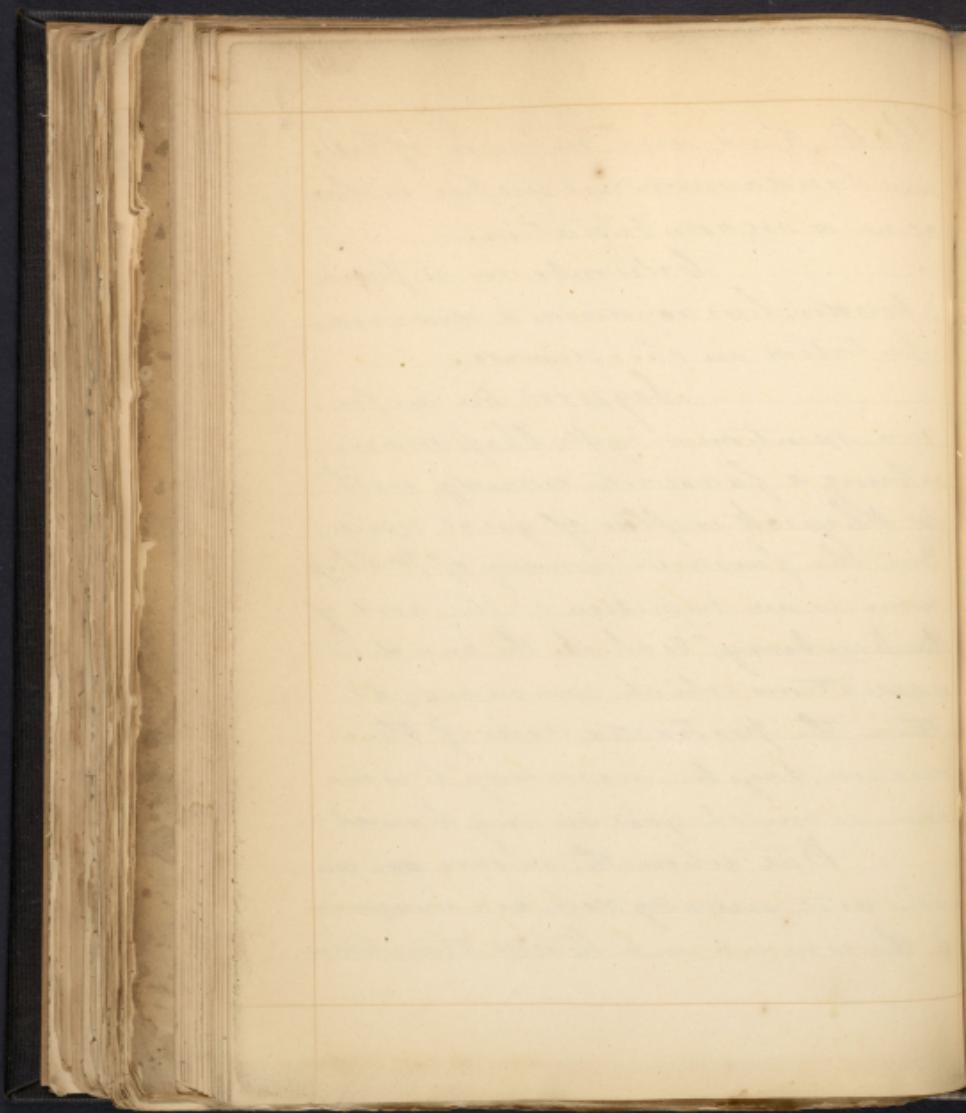
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Chalk, Kino, and ^{an} infusion of Galls
and Sassafrass are useful either
alone or in combination.

Colombia in infusion
or powder, has acquired a deserved
reputation in this disease.

Sagewood in infu-
-sion, mentioned by Dr. Chapman
as being a favourite remedy with
Dr. Physick is often of great service.
But the favourite remedy of Dr. Chap-
man is an infusion of the root of
the Newberry, "To check the inordinate
evacuations which commonly at-
-tend the protracted cases of this
disease, says he, no remedy has ever
done so much good in my hands."

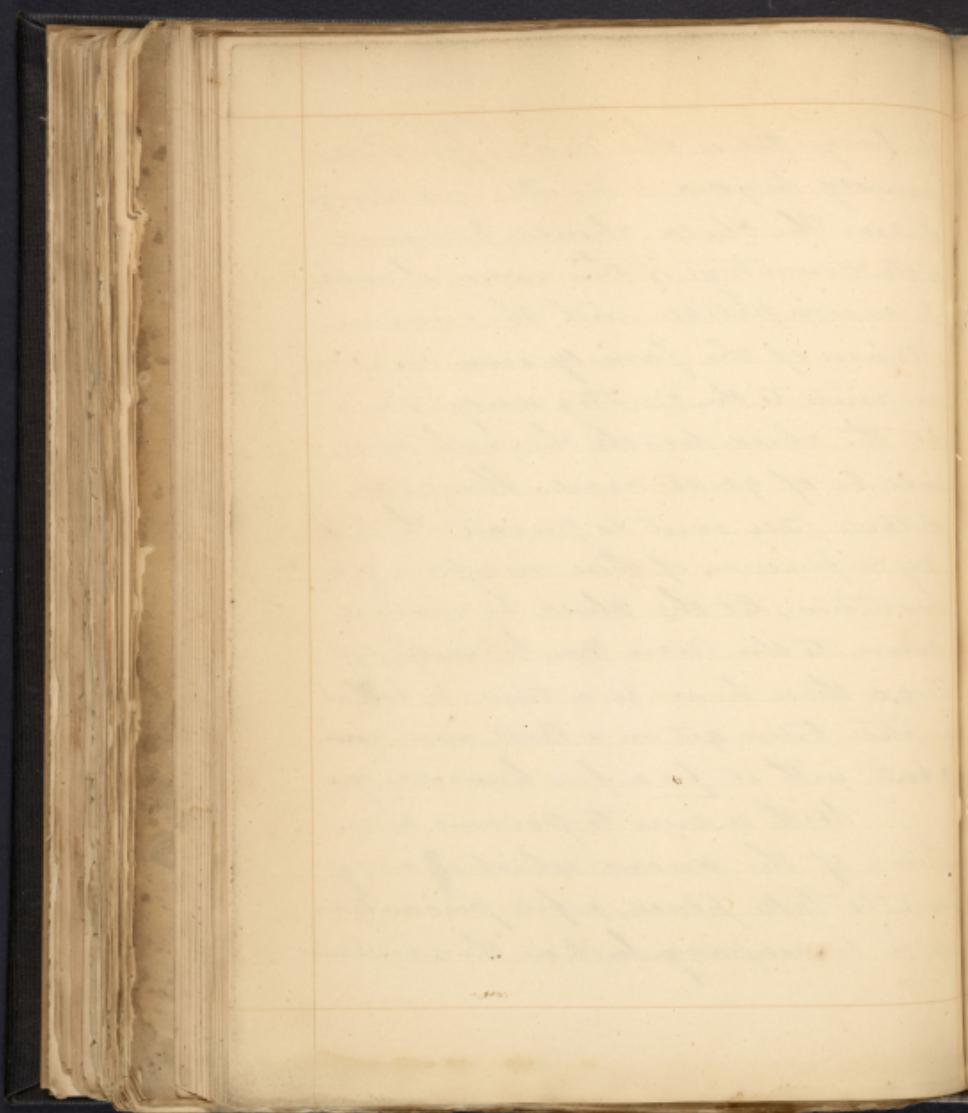
But when the disease origin-
-ates as it usually does, as a consequence
of the crowded and heated atmosphere



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of large Cities the most effectual remedy, beyond a doubt, is a change of air. The Child should be carried to the Country. If this advice should be incompatible with the circumstances of the family, even occasional visits to the Country daily, so as to let the Child breathe the fresh air, will be of great avail. Should an obstacle still exist to prevent the happy influence of these necessary admonitions, let the Child be carried down to the River Banks daily for two, or three hours at a time. Or what is still better yet in a Boat, and rowing with it for a few hours daily.

With a view to prevent a return of the disease, which is very apt to take place, a few precautions will be necessary. Such as the avoidance



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of early weaning, at least, during the year. The daily use of the Cola Bath, both with a view to its tonic, as well as to its cleansing properties.

When the Cola Bath cannot be used, the Warm Bath may be substituted in its place. Flannel, and laced stockings should be worn.

As regards diet, the eating of unripe fruits, more particularly, should be avoided.

Milk with some of the farinaceous articles form a proportionate.

As dentition, if not a cause of this disease is well calculated to aggravate it when it does exist, the gums should be examined frequently, and if the teeth should appear to be retarded by them, they should be fully lanced.

